Australia the number of reported gold occurrences is much more and both underground and opencast mechanized mining is practiced.

Studies on Abnormal Increase in Summer Temperature

*156. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disaster management wing of Home Ministry is aware of the fact that several parts of the country, mainly Andhra Pradesh, recorded unprecedented high temperature in the summer of 2003;

(b) whether any agency studies the reasons for the abnormal increase in the average summer temperature in the States like Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government intend to ask any of our scientific agencies to find the scientific reasons for the unusual phenomenon; and

(e) the action plan to save the poor people from calamity of heat wave during summer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) During 2003, heat wave conditions in Andhra Pradesh prevailed for a duration of 27 days from 16th May to 11th June, whereas in normal cases, it lasts only for about a week or so. Regions extending from Rajasthan to coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are prone to heat waves. Its occurrence year after year varies in space and time from one region to another.

(b) and (c) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this year a cyclonic storm development over the Bay of Bengal and remained over the sea for about 10 days (10-19 May. It had a prolonged influence on the flow pattern over the country even after its dissipation. This caused the dry and hot northwesterly winds to blow over the peninsula leading to heat wave conditions over Andhra Pradesh and its prevalence for an unusualy longer duration. Pre-Monsoon showers during summer generally bring respite from rising maximum temperatures and consequent improvement in heat wave conditions. But this year the

absence of such rainfall activity significantly contributed to the severity of heat wave conditions in Andhra Pradesh. The delay in the onset of the monsoon this year also favoured the continuance of heat wave conditions for a longer period in June.

The impact of the heat wave conditions was also felt rather acutely this year due to the prevalence of drought conditions in some regions because of poor monsoon rains last year.

(d) The State Governments concerned take necessary steps to mitigate the impact of this problem.

Power Charges in States

157. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are rates of charges for one unit of electricity in each State of the country;

(b) how much subsidy is borne by different State Governments to relieve the public from the heavy charges of electrical bills;

(c) the reasons why the unit charges for consumption of electricity go high up in some States; and

(d) the remedial measures that may possible be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The average tariff for sale of electricity in various States during 2001-02 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below.

(b) According to the Planning Commission Report, an amount of Rs. 8339.62 crore was given as subsidy by the various State Governments in 2001-02.

(c) The unit charges of electricity in some States is higher due to the excessive Transmission and Distribution losses including theft of power, higher costs of generation/power purchase, excessive employee costs etc.

(d) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses, elimination of theft, improvement in collection efficiency combined with control over generation/power purchase costs are the key measures necessary to minimize the increase in the average cost of supply.